

REMARKS

Before this Amendment, claims 1-70 were pending in this application. However, claims 1-57 and 66-70 have been withdrawn from consideration as a result of the restriction requirement dated March 22, 2006. Accordingly, claims 58-65 were pending in this application before this Amendment.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 58-63 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Stephens* (Stephens, Scott, "Supply Chain & Supply Chain Operations Reference (SCOR) Model Overview," May 1999, pp. 1-31) and rejected claims 64 and 65 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Stephens* in view of *Oota et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,341).¹

On August 23, 2006, Applicants' representative conducted a telephonic interview with Examiner Sterrett to discuss the outstanding rejections. Applicants wish to thank Examiner Sterrett for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the interview. At the interview, the rejections in the Office Action were discussed. No agreement was reached and the Examiner agreed to reconsider the rejections in view of a formal response.

Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding rejections because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. However, to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have canceled claims 58-65 without prejudice or disclaimer

¹ Applicants note that the Summary page of the Office Action fails to mention that claims 1-57 and 66-70 are also pending in this application, but that they have been withdrawn from consideration. In addition, Applicants note that the Office Action contains statements characterizing the claims and references. Regardless of whether any such statement is specifically identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statements in the Office Action.

and have added new claims 71-77. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 58-65 have been rendered moot and claims 71-77 are now under consideration. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the applied references, either singly or in combination, teaches or suggests the combination of features recited in these claims.

Independent claim 71 is directed a method for displaying a business collaboration between participants, wherein the participants are members of a business community and the participants interact according to a predefined consecutive order. The method includes receiving data that identifies the participants and interactions between the participants; receiving data that identifies the consecutive order of the interactions; displaying, in a first view, at least two columns representing business activities of the participants, wherein each column represents at least one of the participants in the interactions, order of the columns from left to right represents a flow of goods, and the business activities are represented by individual polygons within the at least two columns; displaying, in the first view, the business activities in individual polygons, wherein the polygons are positioned adjacent to each other and to represent the interactions between the participants in the business collaboration; displaying, in a second view, the at least two columns in the same order as the first view, wherein the polygons are not touching and are connected by lines, and the interactions between the participants are represented by the lines connecting the polygons; displaying, in a third view, the at least two columns, wherein the at least two columns include at least one additional column, each of the at least one additional columns representing specific computer components used to implement the interactions between the participants and

utilization of the computer components by the participants. None of the applied references teaches or suggests at least this combination of features.

For example, neither *Stephens* nor *Oota et al.* teaches or suggests at least "displaying, in a first view, at least two columns representing business activities of the participants, wherein each column represents at least one of the participants in the interactions, order of the columns from left to right represents a flow of goods, and the business activities are represented by individual polygons within the at least two columns; displaying, in the first view, the business activities in individual polygons, wherein the polygons are positioned adjacent to each other and to represent the interactions between the participants in the business collaboration," as required by claim 71.

Moreover, new claims 72-77 depend from claim 71 and are thus allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Moreover, none of the applied references, either singly or in combination, teaches or suggests the additional features recited in claims 72-77. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

III. Conclusion

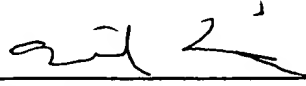
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,
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